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UM sponsors symposium exploring patient access to drugs

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April 16, 1990

**UM SPONSORS SYMPOSIUM EXPLORING
PATIENT ACCESS TO DRUGS**

MISSOULA --

Legal drugs present both help and hazard to the public, and their availability raises many issues. The University of Montana pharmacy and law schools will explore those issues in a symposium Friday, April 20, titled "Patient Access to Drugs: Policy and Regulation."

The symposium, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Blackfoot Room of the Village Red Lion Inn, will tackle important drug-access questions including: Should AIDS patients have access to experimental drugs without the limitation of final FDA approval? Are patients well served by categorizing all drug products as either prescription or nonprescription, or should there be a third class of drugs dispensed by pharmacists or medical personnel other than traditional prescribers? Do drug product liability standards serve as an instrument for patient safety or a force that may effectively bar needed drugs from the market?

Presenters include: Thomas J. McGinnis, special assistant to the director in the Food and Drug Administration Office of Generic Products; Ronald Kullick, vice president and legal counsel for Ribic Immunochem Research and former counsel to Procter and Gamble and

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Kraft, Inc.; David Forbes, dean of the UM pharmacy school; and David Barr, staff legal counsel to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City. The symposium will also feature a video appearance on "The Dilemma of a Person With AIDS," by Robert Barnett, an AIDS patient and career radio broadcaster. Gregory Munro, UM assistant professor of law, will serve as moderator for the symposium.

For further information, call 243-4311. The day-long event is the second annual University of Montana Pharmacy/Law Symposium.

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